Russian Federation in January 1993, December 1993 and February 1994 to explore the possibility of its implementation after making a fresh assessment of the economic and commercial aspects of the project which have changed since the signing of IGA in 1988. Discussions with Russia have not been concluded. The cost and other details of the project will be known after the discussions are completed.

Mishaps in Atomic Power Plants

3866. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the mishaps which occurred in the atomic power plants in the country, plant-wise, since their commissioning;

(b) whether any nuclear power plant is using electricity more than what is being generated by that plant;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government think that the performance of the nuclear power plants has been unsatisfactory in relation to their capacity; and

(e) if so, what measures are contemplated by Government in this ragard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) In terms of International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) reporting system, nuclear events are rated ranging from 0 to 7. Events rated upto and including 3 are incidents and events rated as 4 and above are rated as accidents. No accidents (mishaps) have so far occurred in the Indian Nuclear Power Plants.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The auxiliary consumption of the nuclear plants in India is around 12% of the gross generation at normative levels of the operation. During temporary periods of shutdown of the units for maintenance, the units concerned draw their electricity requirements from the grid. The Nuclear Power Plants have supplied to the grids about 20600 MUs (million units) out of a total generation of 23700 MUs during the years 1991-92 to 1993-94.

(d) and (e) The performance of Tarapur Atomic Power Station 1 & 2 and Rajasthan Atomic Power Station-2 has been generally very good whereas the performance of Madras Atomic Power Station 1 & 2 has been affected by turbine blade and moderator inlet manifold failures. Narora Atomic Power Station-1 was affected by the fire incident caused by the failure of turbine blades. The Nuclear Power Corporation has taken necessary corrective steps to modify the turbine blades in all the Nuclear Power Plants. Efforts for strengthening of preventive and predictive maintenance, outage planning and equipment condition monitoring are on.

Nuclear-Waste Management in India

3867. DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that satisfaction is expressed at international forum about India's capacity in dealing with nuclear wastes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that any adverse comments or criticism has recently been made by any international forum or agency about India's nuclear-waste management programmes;

(c) whether India compares with other developed western countries in nuclear-waste management; if so, how; and

(d) whether the department of Atomic Energy is complascent about its waste-management programme or it is improving;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) India's Radioactive Waste Management practices are in conformity with international standards and are governed by the rules and regulations prescribed by the National Regulatory Authorities. India has gained a lot of experience in the field of Radioactive Waste Management in the past several years. Our expertise being used by IAEA in its various programmes related to waste management testifies to our capacities in this field.

(b) No, Sir. No adverse criticism or comments made recently by any international forum/agency has come to our knowledge.

(c) Yes, Sir. India compares well with other developed western countries in dealing with the Nuclear waste. The processes adopted in India are very similar to those adopted in the developed western countries.

(d) No, Sir. The Department attaches great importance to these areas and is continuously working to improve the process and the technology related to radioactive waste Management Programmes.

Food Irradiation Technology

3868. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that food irradiation technology is being opposed all over the world by strong consumer movements and if so, what are the reasons for its being promoted in our country, especially for food exports, which are bound to be boycotted abroad;